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Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 H-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 /070 W
---------- 115832
R 311700Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9312

UNCLAS ROME 1502

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJ: SEMI ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 1974 - DEC. 31, 1974:
CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION

REF: STATE 012151

1. /SECTION A/. A THROUGH C: N/A
D. SUPPORT COSTS: NONE
E. NUMBERAND TYPE OF PEOPLE TRAINED: NONE
F. U.S. PERSONNEL AT POST AS OF 12/31/74:
ROME: 4 AGENTS, 2 SECY'S
MILAN: 3 AGENTS, 1 SECY
GENOA: 2 AGENTS, 1 SECY

2M /SECTION B/.

A. SUMMARY: PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICAT DEVELOPMENT OF
REPORTING PERIOD WAS THE NEUTRALIZATION OF A MAJOR HEROIN
TRAFFICKING GROUP (SALVATORE ZIPPO ET AL). THEIR IMPRISONMENT
RESULTED FROM AN INTENSE DEA/ITALIAN COOPERATIVE EFFORT. IN
ADDITION THERE WAS A SUCCESSFUL PENETRAION OF A KEY ROME BASED
SOUTH AMERICAN COCAINE SMUGGLING GROUP, SEUZURE OF SEVERAL KILOS
OF COCAINE AND ARREST OF 3 COLOMBIANS AND ONE ITALIAN.

B. ABUSE: ITALIAN CONSUMPTION CONTINUES TO GROW SLOWLY.
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THERE IS SIGNIFICANT USE OF COCAINE AND HASHISH, AND A SLIGHT

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INCREASE IN HEROIN USE EVIDENCED BY THREE REPORTED OVERDOSE DEATHS IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS. BECAUSE OF THE STILL RELATIVELY LOW INCIDENCE OF THE USE OF ADDICTIVE DRUGS THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE AMONG SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO STRONGLY SUPPORT ONGOING PROGRAMS. THERE IS ON THE OTHER HAND INTENSE INTEREST AND CONCERN WITHIN THE GOVERNMENTS OPERATING LEVEL WITH THE PROBLAMS LIKELY TO ARISE WITH THE 1975 OPIUM CROP. THIS IS DUE TO THE HISTORICAL ROLE ITALY HAS PLAYED AS AN IN-TRANSIT AND STAGING COUNTRY FOR FRENCH HEROIN AND TURKISH MORPHINE BASE.

C. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING: N/A.

D. TRAFFICKING TRENDS: HEROIN REMAINS A SCARCE COMMODITY ON THE LOCAL SCENE. HEROIN SEIZED HAS BEEN WITHOUT EXCEPTION CHINESE #3 AND IN VERY SMALL QUANTITIES. FRENCH HEROIN HAS BEEN SCARCE TO POINT OF NON-EXISTENCE. HOWEVER, ITALIAN TRAFFICKERS ARE CONTINUING THE SEARCH FOR FRENCH HEROIN FOR SALE TO CANADIAN AND AMERICAN BUYERS. FAIRLY LARGE AMOUNTS OF COCAINE ENTER ITALY FROM LATIN AMERICA PRIMARILY BY COMMERCIAL AIRLINE PASSENGERS, WHO CONCEAL SEVERAL KILOS OF COCAINE ON THEIR BODIES AND IN HIDDEN COMPARTMENTS IN PERSONAL LUGGAGE. THIS COCAINE TRAFFIC IS LARGELY FINANCED BY LATIN AMERICANS USING LATIN AMERICAN COURIERS. MOST HASHISH ON THE ITALIAN MARKET ORIGINATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IS SMIGGLED CONCEALED IN COMMERCIAL OCEAN CARGOES OR BY PRIVATE AUTOMOBILES EQUIPPED WITH CONCELALED TRAPS.

E. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION: DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER ITALY HOSTED A MEETING IN NAPLES WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS SMIGGLING CONTROL POSSIBILITIES AND REGIONAL COOPERATION.

F. EMBASSY AND HOST COUNTRY ACTIVITIES: NO NEW PROGRAMS WERE INITIATED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND HOST COUNTRY AUTHORITIES HAVE CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL HOWEVER AND PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATION IN INSTRUCTION PROGRAMS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. WITHIN THE PAST FEW DAYS AN APPROACH HAS BEEN MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING MATERIALS WITH WHICH A PROGRAM CAN BE UNCLASSIFIED

INITIATED IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEMS OF DRUG ABUSE. THE EMBASSY IS EXAMINING HOW BEST TO MEET THIS REQUEST.

G. ENFORCEMENT:

THE ARREST OF TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE ZIPPO GROUP, THOUGH IT DID NOT RESULT IN THE SEIZURE OF NARCOTICS, EFFECTIVELY NEUTRALIZED

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A MAJOR HEROIN TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION. THIS OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS BETWEEN THE DEA AND ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. ITALY HAS OF COURSE RATIFIED THE PROTOCOL TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION AND WILL BE DEPOSITING ITS RATIFICATION AT THE SPRING CND. THE PROTOCOLA ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES IS A MORE DIFFICULT MATTER AS IT INVOLVES ITALY'S IMPORTANT PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY DIRECTLY. NONETHELESS, OUR SOURCE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE PROTOCOL WILL EVENTUALLY RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION. THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS OF ENFORCEMENT IN ITALY CONTINUE TO REST UPON THE DIVISION OF AUTHORITY AMONG THREE AGENCIES (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, CARABINIERI, GUARDIA DI FINANZA). ONE OF THE PRIMARY GOALS OF THIS MISSION REMAINS THE ENCOURAGMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE NARCOTICS CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WITHIN THE ITALIAN GOVERMENT.

H. INCOME SUBSTITUTION: NOT APPLICABLE.

I. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION. WITH THUS FAR ONLY A MINOR PROBLEM OF ADDICTION, THERE HAS THUS FAR BEEN LITTLE CHANGE IN THE OFFICIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE ELEMENTS OF THE DRUG PROBLEM. AS NOTED IN F) ABOVE, HOWEVER, THERE DOES SEEM TO BE A MOVE TOWARD INTRODUCING GREATER AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM INTO THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY AT THIS POINT WHETHER THIS IS AN INITIATIVE BASED ON HIGH LEVEL INTEREST OR SIMPLY THE PRODUCT OF GROWING SENSITIVITY AT THE WORKING LEVEL.VOLPE

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Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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